being exculpated due to the new economic policy of the Government direct all the ports to provide jobs on that very scale or a higher one to all those labourers who have been rendered surplus by the dockyard or Bombay Port Trust, after containerisation?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Sir, I do not think that this is possible. But this is completely a wrong allegation that we are exploiting the labour. Rather, I have been very particular that he labourer should be done away with. We have got a Golden handshake scheme. Over 3, 000 workers in Bombay port have accepted it. And I am just waiting for the Finance Ministry to clear it. We are going to allow private handling of it but with the consent of the port workers. I am not going to for a moment also to see that the port workers in any way are put to inconvenience.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, even now 5000 employees have been working under contractors at Ntavasheva. So it is not the proper reply of my significant question. You have simply made a mention of your objectives whereas my question is quite specific. On the one hand, 5, 000 workers have been working one lower salary under contractors, on the other hand, the employees of the Bombay Port Trust who have opted for the so called Golden Handshake Scheme have not been getting their salaries for the last three months i.e. September, October and November. Does the Government propose to do something for these workers?

English]

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Sir, Bombay Port Trust and Nava Sheva Port Trust are wo different organisations. I want to tell you iat if the people are satisfied and the work ; being done all right in JNPT, why should I iterfere in that?.. (*Interruption*) I do not want) inter fere. And people are getting job atisfaction. But as far as 5,000 port workers 'e concerned, about whom you are referig to - we are already working out a scheme and something can be done about it now.

Rubber Board

*535. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the research activities of the Rubber Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan prepared in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMANKHURSHEED): (a) to (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATMENT

Government propose to intensify research activities of the Rubber Board, Proposals include strengthening of existing facilities and establishment of new stations, strengthening of the evaluation of germplasm materials, strengthening of research on biotechnology and form culture, strengthening of supporting services and economic research, etc. It also includes commercialisation of the generation of tissue culture plants, on farm experiments of 15 potentially high yielding clones, strengthening of selection, conservation, cataloguing and evaluation of Brazilian germs plasm, etc.

SHRI RAMESH CHANNITHALA: Sir, more than 700 scientists are working in Malaysian. Rubber Research Board, which is an autonomous body and they are coming with new varieties of prawns, which will give more yield per hectare. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, how many scientists are working in the Indian Rubber Research Institute, Kottayam. Also what are the new invasions of this Institute?

SHRI SLAMAN KHURSHEED: Sir, a special clone which is number as IRII No. 105, has been introduced in the late seven-

ties. Almost 90 per cent of it is now being used for new plantation. It has given extremely good results, giving an average of 1.5 to 2 tonnes per hectare, which at least 250 to 400 kilograms more than the highest yielding clones which have been imported form else-where. The total number of scientists that are at present working in various departments of the research Institute, include. In the Administrative Department - 273; in the Finance and Rubber production Department - 1, 137; in the Research Department which is scientific, technical and non-scientific - 382; in the Department of Training (Scientific and Non -scientific)- seven and in the Department of processing and Product Development - 68. Altogether it comes to 1, 963.

SHRI RAMESH CHHENNITHALA: Sir, the Indian Rubber Research Institute has got inadequate facilities, and encouragement to the scientists is also lacking. I would like to know what are the steps taken to modernise the Institute. Is there any linkage with the Crop research Institute, London and the Rubber Research Institute, Kottayam?

SHRI SLAMAN KHURSHEED: Sir, we are aware that of late, the service conditions of scientists and support staff in the Indian Rubber Research Institute are not adequate and certainly not for the kind of work that w expect from them. For this purpose, the Commerce Ministry has already taken steps. A committee has been set up which has proposed now pay scales. We have already sent this entire proposal of new pay scales to the Ministry of Finance and to the Department of Personnel and I will plead with the Ministry of Finance - the finance Minister is present- that we be given permission, as quickly as possible, to implement these new pay scales. Apart from the new pay scales, which will make radical difference to the output, we are also introducing various other schemes which will provide a better interaction , better exposure for people who are working in the Institutes. The Institute has no foormal link with any other institute but as all research institutes do, it does have interaction with other Institutes working in the same area.

SHRI P.C. THOMES: Sir, thanks to our good research and the good labour put forth by the farmers and the labourers, the production of rubber has boosted in a very high way and we are now even in the export stage of rubber. My questions is whether we could find or direct the research in such a way as to produce more products of rubber and also to put rubber into more domestic use, like rubberisation of roads and other such uses for which high research and implementation may be necessary.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: Sir, these proposals relate to the use of rubber. Major work that is being done by the Rubber Research Institute is towards production and towards the agricultural aspects of rubber. But there are other aspects of rubber as well. The use of rubber is basically a research which is done by the specific industry concerned. At present we are using almost 47 per cent of our rubber produced in auto tyres and tubes, 12 per cent in cycle tyres, 11 per cent in input wares and the rest goes into wells and hoses, latex foam and other rubber goods.

As far as the suggestion of using rubber more extensively in the broad perspective for the future is concerned this is a welcome suggestion but, of course, industry and Government will have to work together.

[*Translation*]

SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA: Is it a fact that now small rubber growers are not in a position to continue with their present occupation?

MR. SPEAKER: The question pertains to research.

SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA: It is not helping development and in this context, on their part the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: The question relates not to the cultivation of rubber but the research in respect of rubber.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH: Sir, I want to know from the Minister whether the Government will take necessary steps to see that the Rubber Board supplies good quality rubber seedlings to the rubber growers. I will also like to know whether the Government intend to provide better training to the farmers(*Interruption*).

MR. SPEAKER: No, this question is about rubber research, not about farming. The question is disallowed.

Visit of German Delegation

*536. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHONSLE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high powered German delegation visited India recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any discussions on investment and trade prospects between the two countries were held; and

(d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE ((SHRI P. CHINDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, sir,

(b) to (d). Two delegations from Germany visited India in the month of February, 1992. In their interaction with various Indian Industry Associations and others concerned, the possibilities for joint collaborations and setting up of production base for exports to third countries were explored, In addition, the scope for future cooperation in sectors such as Power, Transport, Telecommunications, Computer Software, Road Construction, Port Development, Mechanical Engineering and Chemicals, came up for discussion.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHONSLE: Mr. Speaker Sir, the hon. Minister has not given an appropriate answer to my question. I want to know the conclusion arrived at during the discussion because the hon. Minister has said nothing about that I want to know clearly the names of those third world countries which have been discussed for exploring possibilities to make them the base of production for the purpose of export and what were those industries about which decision had been taken during the discussion. In case, no such decision was taken, is there any possibility to discuss it again ? The hon. Minister has stated in his reply that discussion was held with various Indian Industry Associations. I would like to know whether some high level officers were also present during the discussion.

[*English*]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I am afraid, there is slight misunderstanding The delegations visited India at the request of our business and trade associations. They are not delegations invited by the Government of India. These are the delegations which had visited India under the suspices of Indo-German chamber of Commerce and another business associations. so the talks are between our businessmen of India and the businessmen of Germany. What we have gathered is the general nature of the talks. Specific proposals which one businessman from Germany or one business house of Germany may have discussed with another business house of India are certainly not within the knowledge of the Government unless they apply to the Government for approval of their linence after the permission. I have given the gist of the discussion which we have gathered from the Chambers of Commerce and the business houses of India when they discussed with the German delegations

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHONSLE: Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is on the basis of this very